

23 February 1960

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X Pers 2 H. F. TWINING

X Pers 2 S. SYMINGTON

UPI-167

(RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M. EST)
(Red Missiles)

GEN. NATHAN F. TWINING HAS CONCEDED TO SENATE INVESTIGATORS THAT HE DID NOT HAVE CERTAIN INTELLIGENCE FIGURES ON RUSSIAN MISSILE STRENGTH WHEN HE ASSURED CONGRESS THE MISSILE GAP HAD BEEN NARROWED.

TWINING, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, ADMITTED THE FIGURES WERE LAST YEAR'S ESTIMATES OF HOW MANY LONG-RANGE MISSILES THE RUSSIANS HAD ON LAUNCHERS READY TO FIRE.

HIS TESTIMONY, GIVEN AT SECRET CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS FEB. 9, WAS MADE PUBLIC TODAY.

THE SENATE SPACE COMMITTEE AND PREPAREDNESS INVESTIGATING SUBCOMMITTEE, LED BY MAJORITY LEADER SYNDON B. JOHNSON OF TEXAS, HAS CALLED ALLEN W. DULLES, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, TO FIND OUT IF HE KNOWS WHY TWINING DIDN'T HAVE THE FIGURES. DULLES WILL TESTIFY AT A CLOSED-DOOR SESSION TOMORROW.

SEN. STUART SYMINGTON SAID THE FIGURES PROVE THE RUSSIANS HAVE A "MUCH LARGER" SUPERIORITY IN LONG-RANGE MISSILES THAN THE THREE-TO-ONE RATIO PREVIOUSLY CONCEDED BY U.S. DEFENSE LEADERS.

HOWEVER, TWINING REFUSED TO AGREE WITH SYMINGTON'S CONCLUSION. "I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO THAT RACKET OF NUMBERS," HE TOLD THE SENATOR AT THE CLOSED-DOOR HEARING.

BUT TWINING DID ADMIT THAT HE NEVER SAW THE ON-LAUNCHER ESTIMATES WHICH DULLES GAVE TO THE SENATE INVESTIGATORS AT ANOTHER HEARING JAN. 29. "WE NEVER HAD THAT IN THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT," THE GENERAL SAID.

SYMINGTON SAID DULLES TESTIFIED THAT U.S. INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES THIS YEAR SHOWED MORE RUSSIAN MISSILES ON LAUNCHERS FOR MID-1961 AND MID-1962 THAN WERE ESTIMATED LAST YEAR.

TWINING HAS INSISTED IN EARLIER TESTIMONY ON CAPITOL HILL THAT THE U.S. WAS STRONG ENOUGH OVERALL MILITARILY TO DETER ANY RUSSIAN ATTACK.